



United States Department of Agriculture
National Agricultural Statistics Service

Press Release

Cooperating with the Idaho State Department of Agriculture
Idaho Field Office • PO Box 1699 • Boise, Idaho 83701

(800) 691-9987 • (208) 334-1507 • (208) 334-1114 FAX • www.nass.usda.gov



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Media Contact: Vince Matthews

October Farm Labor

For the Mountain I Region of the U.S. (Idaho, Montana, and Wyoming), there were 29,000 hired workers on farms and ranches during the week of October 9-15, 2011, according to the National Agricultural Statistics Service. Hired workers worked an average of 50.7 hours during the survey week at an average wage of \$10.45 per hour.

The annual average number of hired workers for the Mountain I Region for 2011 was 25,000 workers, up 11 percent from 2010. The average annual wage rate for the Mountain I Region for 2011 was \$10.55, up six cents from the 2010 average annual wage rate.

Nationally, farm operators paid their hired workers an average wage of \$11.15 per hour during the October 2011 reference week, up two cents from a year earlier. Field workers received an average of \$10.54 per hour, up five cents from last October, while livestock workers earned \$10.67 per hour compared with \$10.28 a year earlier. The field and livestock worker combined wage rate, at \$10.57 per hour, was up 14 cents from last year. The number of hours worked averaged 41.6 hours for hired workers during the survey week, down fractionally from a year ago.

The 2011 all hired worker annual average wage rate was \$11.07, up one percent from the 2010 annual average wage rate of \$10.95 per hour. The U.S. field worker annual average wage rate was \$10.33 per hour, up 14 cents from last year's average. The field and livestock combined annual average wage rate at the U.S. Level was \$10.36, up one percent from last year's annual average wage rate of \$10.22.

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